

Researching Scottish Ancestors

*Class 2: Civil and Parish Records
in Scotland*

Rhonda R. McClure, Senior Genealogist

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



American Ancestors®
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Meet today's presenter



Rhonda R. McClure
Senior Genealogist

OVERVIEW

- **Presentation (60 mins.)**
 - Published Guides
 - Civil Records
 - Parish Records
 - Accessing Records
- **Q&A (30 mins.)**

Civil and Parish Records

- Civil Records
 - Births
 - Marriages
 - Deaths
- Parish Records
 - Baptisms
 - Marriages
 - Burials
 - Other Records

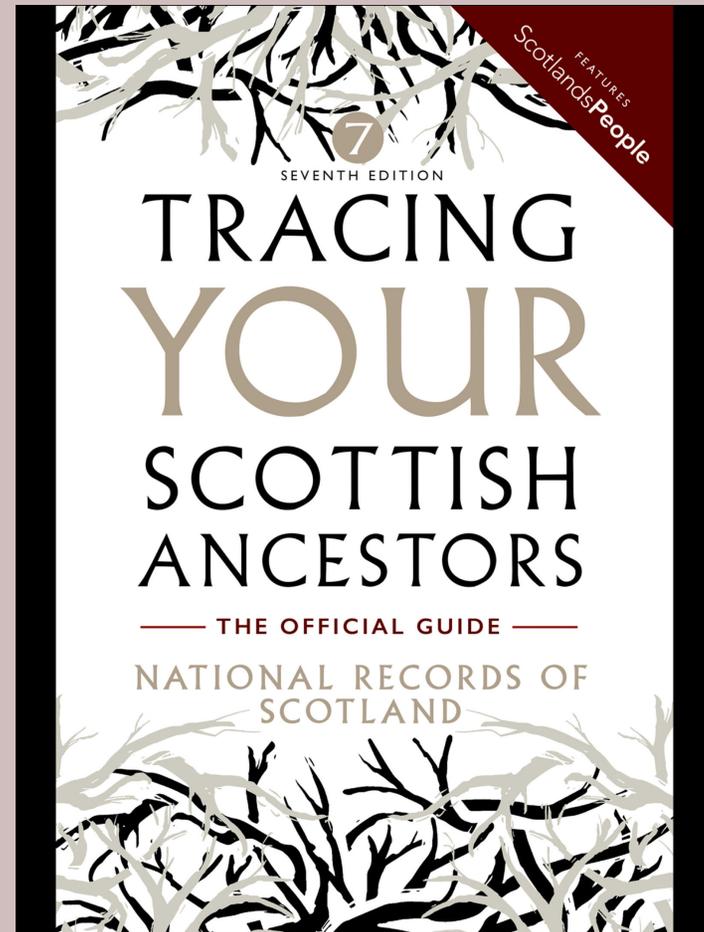


Voice of
Rhonda R. McClure
Senior Genealogist

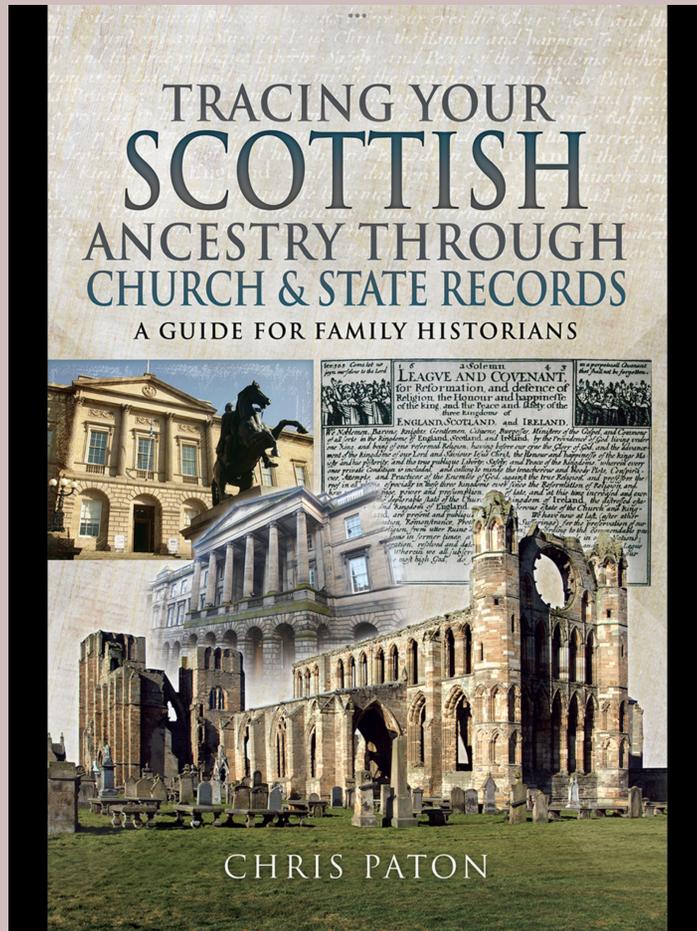
Guides

Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors

- Now in its 7th edition
- Compiled by the National Records of Scotland
- Offers information about ScotlandsPeople



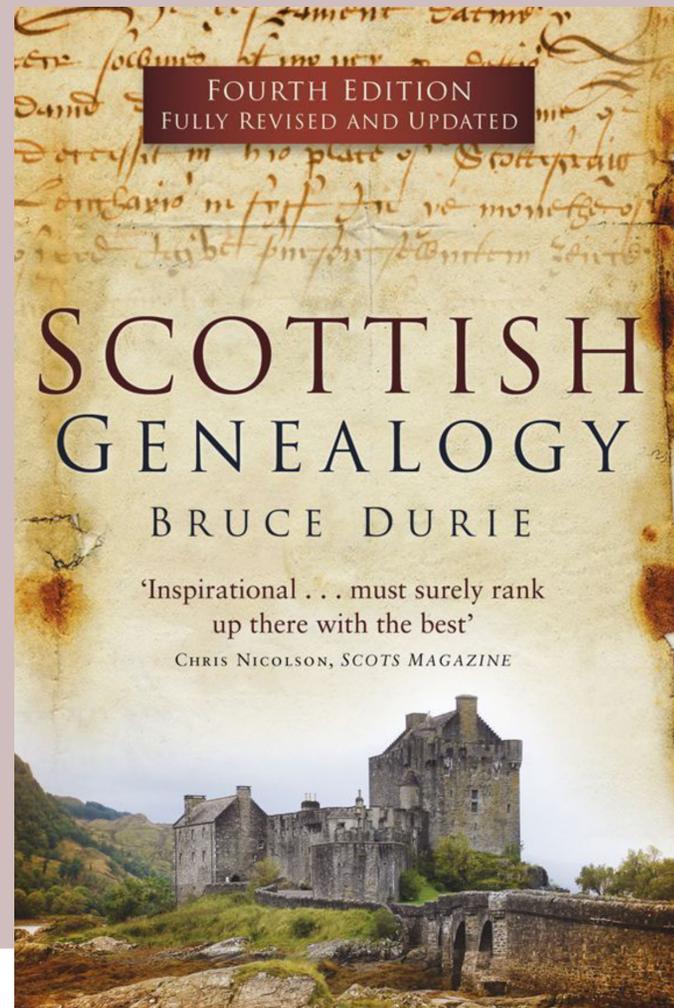
Tracing Your Scottish Ancestry...



- Written by Chris Paton
- Published in 2019
- Covers many of the major records

Scottish Genealogy

- Written by Bruce Durie
- Now in its 4th edition
- Includes information on records that are seldom used by family historians



Civil Records

Civil Records

- Statutory Registers of Birth, Marriage, and Death
- Begin 1 January 1855
- 1,027 Registration Districts created
- By 1994, number of Registration Districts reduced to 360
- Registration Districts may straddle county lines

| | OPR | Date from | Date to | Notes |
|--|--------|------------------|----------------|---|
| Aberdeen | 168 | 1560 | 1854 | |
| Registration Districts after 1855 | | Date from | Date to | Notes |
| St Nicholas | 168/01 | 1855 | 1930 | |
| Old Machar | 168/02 | 1855 | 1863 | |
| Old Machar, Aberdeen Burgh | 168/02 | 1864 | 1875 | |
| Old Machar, Landward | 168/03 | 1864 | 1875 | |
| Old Machar | 168/02 | 1876 | 1885 | |
| Old Machar Parish | 168/02 | 1886 | 1897 | |
| Woodside | 168/03 | 1886 | 1913 | |
| Old Aberdeen | 168/04 | 1886 | 1913 | |
| St Machar | 168/02 | 1898 | 1930 | Same area as Old Machar |
| Rubislaw | 168/03 | 1914 | 1930 | Note change from previous Woodside number |
| Woodside | 168/04 | 1914 | 1930 | |
| Old Aberdeen | 168/05 | 1914 | 1930 | |
| Aberdeen, Northern District | 168/01 | 1931 | 1967 | |
| Aberdeen, Southern District | 168/02 | 1931 | 1967 | |
| Aberdeen, Eastern District | 168/03 | 1931 | 1967 | |
| Aberdeen | 168 | 1968 | 1971 | |
| Aberdeen | 300 | 1972 | current | |

Part of the table from Bruce Durie's Scottish Genealogy showing city of Aberdeen

Table 8. The various RDs in Aberdeen city over the years. Dundee is equally complicated. Edinburgh and Glasgow, just because of their greater sizes and growths, are more complicated still.

Registration Districts

| Alpha | RD Name | County or Burgh | First year | Last year | Rd Number | | Current Rd | |
|-------|--|------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|--------------|-----|
| K | Edinburgh, Kirkliston | City of Edinburgh | 2007 | | | | Today's RD | 742 |
| K | Kirkmabreck | Kirkcudbright | 1703 | 1854 | OPR | 873 | | |
| K | Kirkmabreck | Kirkcudbright | 1855 | 1971 | Old RD | 873 | Today's RD | 856 |
| K | Kirkmabreck | Kirkcudbright | 1972 | 2004 | Old RD | 856 | Today's RD | 856 |
| K | Dumfries and Galloway | Dumfries and Galloway | 2005 | 2006 | Old RD | 856 | Today's RD | 856 |
| K | Dumfries and Galloway, Kirkmabreck | Dumfries and Galloway | 2007 | | | | Today's RD | 856 |
| K | Kirkmahoe | Dumfries | 1720 | 1854 | OPR | 835 | | |
| K | Kirkmahoe | Dumfries | 1855 | 1968 | Old RD | 835 | Today's RD | 834 |
| K | Kirkmaiden | Wigtown | 1699 | 1854 | OPR | 890 | | |
| K | Kirkmaiden | Wigtown | 1855 | 1971 | Old RD | 890 | Today's RD | 870 |
| K | Kirkmaiden | Wigtown | 1972 | 1988 | Old RD | 871 | Today's RD | 870 |
| K | Kirkmichael | Banff | 1855 | 1855 | Old RD | 160 | Today's RD | 298 |
| K | Kirkmichael | Perth | 1855 | 1857 | Old RD | 370 | Today's RD | 381 |
| K | Kirkmichael | Ayr | 1855 | 1968 | Old RD | 600 | Today's RD | 683 |
| K | Kirkmichael | Dumfries | 1855 | 1968 | Old RD | 836 | Today's RD | 834 |
| K | Kirkmichael | Banff | 1856 | 1967 | Old RD | 160 | 1 Today's RD | 298 |
| K | Kirkmichael | Perth | 1858 | 1968 | Old RD | 370 | 1 Today's RD | 381 |
| K | Kirkmichael (and Tomintoul) (Banff) | Banff | 1725 | 1854 | OPR | 160 | | |
| K | Kirkmichael (Ayr) | Ayr | 1638 | 1854 | OPR | 600 | | |
| K | Kirkmichael (Dumfries) | Dumfries | 1727 | 1854 | OPR | 836 | | |
| K | Kirkmichael (Perth) | Perth | 1650 | 1854 | OPR | 370 | | |
| K | Kirknewton | Midlothian | 1923 | 1930 | Old RD | 690 | Today's RD | 770 |
| K | Kirknewton and East Calder | Edinburgh (Midlothian) | 1642 | 1854 | OPR | 690 | | |
| K | Kirknewton and East Calder | Midlothian | 1855 | 1922 | Old RD | 690 | Today's RD | 770 |
| K | Kirkoswald | Ayr | 1694 | 1854 | OPR | 601 | | |
| K | Kirkoswald | Ayr | 1855 | 1968 | Old RD | 601 | Today's RD | 683 |
| K | Kirkpatrick Durham | Kirkcudbright | 1693 | 1854 | OPR | 874 | | |
| K | Kirkpatrick Durham | Kirkcudbright | 1855 | 1968 | Old RD | 874 | Today's RD | 852 |
| K | Kirkpatrick Fleming | Dumfries | 1748 | 1854 | OPR | 837 | | |
| K | Kirkpatrick Fleming | Dumfries | 1855 | 1865 | Old RD | 837 | Today's RD | 840 |
| K | Kirkpatrick Fleming | Dumfries | 1933 | 1968 | Old RD | 837 | Today's RD | 840 |
| K | Kirkpatrick Fleming, Northern District | Dumfries | 1866 | 1932 | Old RD | 837 | 1 Today's RD | 840 |
| K | Kirkpatrick Fleming, Southern District | Dumfries | 1866 | 1932 | Old RD | 837 | 2 Today's RD | 840 |
| K | Kirkpatrick Juxta | Dumfries | 1694 | 1854 | OPR | 838 | | |
| K | Kirkpatrick Juxta | Dumfries | 1855 | 1968 | Old RD | 838 | Today's RD | 836 |
| K | Kirkton | Roxburgh | 1855 | 1895 | Old RD | 794 | Today's RD | 823 |

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/>

Birth Records

- Had to be registered within 21 days after birth
- Include name of the child
- Where and when born
- Information on father and mother:
 - Name, occupation of father
 - Name, maiden name of mother
 - Where and when married
- Informant's signature and qualification
- Where and when registered

Birth Records

- 1855-1918: illegitimate births were identified as such
- May have a notation to a Register of Corrected Entries (which would name the father)
- After 1919: the word *illegitimate* was unlawful

1877. BIRTHS in the District of Annan in the County of Dumfriesshire

| No. | Name and Surname. | When and Where Born. | Sex. | Name, Surname, & Rank or Profession of Father. Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother. Date and Place of Marriage. | Signature and Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if out of the House in which the Birth occurred. | When and Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar. |
|-----|---------------------------------------|---|------|--|---|---|
| 37 | Archibald Bell | 1877. March Thirty-first 9h P.M. | M | James Bell Railway Porter Janet Bell M.S. Blackstock | James Bell Father (Not Present) | 1877. April 12 th At Annan Wm. J. Cuthbertson Registrar. |
| | | Howcill Annan | | 1862. December Sturdenyarth | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 38 | Jessie Henderson (Illegitimate) | 1877. April Second 10h P.M. | F | Janet Henderson Agricultural Worker | Janet Henderson Her Mother Wm. J. Cuthbertson Registrar Witness | 1877 April 13 th At Annan Wm. J. Cuthbertson Registrar. |
| | | Murray Street, Annan | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

Birth Register – 1877

1877. BIRTHS in the District of Annan in the County of Dumfriesshire

| No. | Name and Surname. | When and Where Born. | Sex. | Name, Surname, & Rank or Profession of Father. Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother. Date and Place of Marriage. | Signature and Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if out of the House in which the Birth occurred. | When and Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar. |
|-----|---------------------------------------|---|------|--|---|---|
| 37 | Archibald Bell | 1877. March Thirty-first 9h P.M. | M | James Bell Railway Porter Janet Bell M.S. Blackstock 1862. December Sturdenparth | James Bell Father (Not Present) | 1877. April 12 th At Annan Wm. J. Cuthbertson Registrar. |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 38 | Jessie Henderson (Illegitimate) | 1877. April Second 10h P.M. | F | Janet Henderson Agricultural Worker Murray Street, Annan | Janet Henderson Her Mother Wm. J. Cuthbertson Registrar Witness | 1877 April 13 th At Annan Wm. J. Cuthbertson Registrar. |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

Paternity
I. J. 55



Birth Register – 1877

Paternity Decree?

- Needed to include the father's name in the Register of Corrected Entries
- Petition of the father to the sheriff for a warrant to acknowledge him
- This launched an inquiry
- OR if court action was brought against the biological father

SHERIFF COURT PATERNITY DECREES

[Jump to index](#)

One of the most common "brick walls" that family historians encounter is where their ancestor is illegitimate. The father may not be named in the birth records, instantly closing off one line of research. Fortunately, there is sometimes a solution, when the mother took the father to court for maintenance payments ("alimant"). The most common approach in the 19th century was to pursue the father in the Sheriff Court. Such cases are generally known as filiation and alimant cases (or affiliation and alimant, sometimes referred to as paternity decrees).

The court's decision was known as a decree, and in order to enforce the court's ruling, these decrees could be extracted. Most Sheriff Courts recorded extracted decrees (for many different types of court rulings, not just filiation and alimant cases) in volumes known as Registers of Extract Decrees or similar. We have now indexed many thousands of these paternity decrees held in the National Records of Scotland, and can retrieve and provide digital images of individual entries.

To order a copy of an extract decree, use the indexes below to find the decree you want. The index now covers almost* all extract decrees between 1828 and 1912 (and in many cases after 1912). There are over 45,000 entries in the index, spread across 593 volumes.

* The index does not include decrees issued in Orkney and Shetland, as these records are not held at the National Records of Scotland.

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- [Ferguson-Gibb](#)
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Sheriff Court Filiation and Alimnt decrees

| Mother name and residence | Defender name | Child birth | Order | Court |
|--|--------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|
| Mary HAINEY Fisher Street, Stranraer | James MITCHELL | 24 Oct 1901 Fisher Street, Stranraer | Order now | Kilmarnock Records SC7/5/16 |
| Agnes HAINING or MCCALLUM 4 Grougar Row, Galston | William MCMAHON | 31 Aug 1912 4 Grougar Row, Galston | Order now | Kilmarnock Records SC7/5/17 |
| Elizabeth HAINING Birkhall, Holywood, Dumfriesshire | John CLARK | 5 Jul 1893 Auchencairn, Closeburn | Order now | Kirkcudbright SC16/7/17 |
| Elizabeth Buthrie HAINING Royal Hotel, Monifieth | George MITCHELL | 22 Aug 1891 Longforgan | Order now | Perth SC49/4/53 |
| Isabella HAINING Newton Stewart | Malcolm DRYSDALE | 11 Sep 1851 | Order now | Wigtown SC19/7/6 |
| Janet HAINING | Robert SOWERBY | 7 Dec 1860 | Order now | Kirkcudbright SC16/7/14 |
| Jean HAINING Parkfoot | Thomas HAINING | 30 Aug 1841 | Order now | Dumfries SC15/7/28 |
| Jessie HAINING Newton Stewart | George BROWN | 27 Jul 1880 | Order now | Wigtown SC19/7/8 |
| Margaret HAINING Kelton, Caerlaverock | John GORDON | 24 Oct 1842 | Order now | Kirkcudbright SC16/7/9 |
| Agnes HAIR | Arthur FOSTER | 27 Apr 1858 | Order now | Kilmarnock SC7/5/4 |
| Aanes HAIR | William NEWBIGGINS | 1 Apr 1868 | Order | Paisley |

<https://www.oldscottish.com/>

1877 HENDERSON, JESSIE (Statutory registers Births 812/ 38)

Advanced people search >

< Back to results

Download as PDF

Add to timeline

 Report an issue

* There have been 1 corrections identified with this entry: [View 1st correction](#) 

Having problems viewing this image? [Click here to open in a new browser window.](#)

|  Save  Print  Zoom in  Zoom out  Magnify  Fit height  Fit width  Rotate  Rotate  Crop  Invert  Contrast  Brightness  Fullscreen | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|
| 37 | <i>Bell</i> | <i>March</i> | | <i>Railway Porter</i> | <i>Father</i> <i>(Not Present)</i> | <i>April 12th</i> | |
| | | <i>Thirty-first</i> <i>9h P.M.</i> | | <i>Janet Bell</i> <i>M.S. Blackstock</i> | | <i>Wm. J. Cuthbertson</i> <i>Registrar.</i> | |
| | | <i>Howgill</i> <i>Annau</i> | | <i>1862. December</i> <i>Stundergarth</i> | | | |
| 38 | <i>Jessie</i> <i>Henderson</i> <i>(Illegitimate)</i> | <i>1877.</i> <i>April Second</i> <i>10h P.M.</i> | <i>F</i> | <i>Janet Henderson</i> <i>Agricultural worker</i> | <i>Her & Mark</i> <i>Mother</i> <i>Registrar</i> <i>Wm. J. Cuthbertson</i> <i>Wm. J. Cuthbertson</i> | <i>1877</i> <i>April 13th</i> | <i>Wm. J. Cuthbertson</i> <i>Registrar.</i> |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | <i>Murray Street</i> <i>Annau</i> | | | | | |

<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>

May 14 1880. Page 88.
 Register of Corrected Entries
 of the District of Annan
 in the County of Dumfries

In the fourth column of Entry no. 38 in the
 Register Book of Births for the year 1877, be-
 fore the name of the child's mother insert
 Thomas Graham, on the authority of a Cer-
 tificate in the Form of Schedule (7.) to
 the following effect:—

In an action relating to the paternity of a
 child named Jessie Henderson, born 2^d
 April, 1877, at the instance of Janet Hender-
 son, residing in Murray Street, Annan, —
 against Thomas Graham, farmer, Hilled, —
 near Annan, the Sheriff Court of the County
 of Dumfries, on the 28th day of March,
 1879, found that the said child was the ille-
 gitimate child of the parties aforesaid.

March 31st, 1879. At Annan
 Wm. J. Cunningham
 Registrar

Register of Corrected Entries

Marriage Records

- Includes when, where, and how married
- Name, age, occupation, marital status of groom
- Name, age, occupation, marital status of bride
- Regular residence of groom and bride
- Name and occupation of fathers of groom and bride
- Name and maiden name of mothers of groom and bride

Marriage Records

- Usually if parent of the bride or groom is deceased, the record reflects that
- If a regular marriage, the names of the officiant and witnesses are included
- If irregular, could have:
 - Date of conviction
 - Decree of Declarator
 - Sheriff's warrant
- Date recorded, name of registrar

1879. MARRIAGES in the Southern district of Kirkpatrick-Fleming in the County of Perth.

| No. | When, Where, and How Married. | Signatures of Parties. Rank or Profession, whether Single or Widowed, and Relationship (if any). | Age. | Usual Residence. | Name, Surname, and Rank or Profession of Father. Name, as Maiden Surname of Mother. | If a regular Marriage, Signatures of officiating Minister and Witnesses. If irregular, Date of Conviction, Decree of Declarator, or Sheriff's Warrant. | When & Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar. |
|-----|--|--|-------------|--|--|---|---|
| 7 | 1879. on the nineteenth day of December at Fairy Row, Kirkpatrick- Fleming. | (Signed) James Johnston General Labourer (Bachelor.) | 25 years | Wilmington Kirkpatrick- Fleming. | James Johnston Handloom Weaver (Deceased.) Jane Johnston M. S. Hope (Deceased.) | (Signed) David Graham Min. of Kirkpatrick- Fleming. | 1879. December Twenty second At Kirkpatrick- Fleming |
| | After Banns ad- ording to the Forms of the Estab- lished Church of Scotland. | (Signed) Catherine Irving Domestic Servant (Spinster.) | 23 years | Fairy Row, Kirkpatrick- Fleming. | Daniel Irving Handloom Weaver (Deceased.) Catherine Irving. M. S. Irving. | (Signed) George Little Witness. Isabella Irving Witness | Charles F. Brown Registrar. |

Marriage Record

Tip

Banns are read three consecutive Sundays.

What is an irregular marriage?

- Any marriage not performed by a minister
- Generally, the parties made a declaration before two witnesses
- Proof of this declaration would be shown to a sheriff who issued a warrant
- The warrant allowed for the civil registration of their marriage

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|---|----|--------------------------------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| 218 | 1906 | Robert Watson <i>provis</i> | 21 | 5 | John Morris | Warrant of | 1906 |
| | on the Fourth day of May at 18 King Street Aberdeen | Joiner (Sawney son, (Bachelor) | | Canal Terrace Aberdeen | Sisterman Margaret-Kentish Morris Th. S. Watson | Sheriff Substitutes of Aberdeen, Kin- cardine and Banff dated 4 May 1906. | May 16 th at Aberdeen |
| | By Declaration in pres- ence of James Morris 5 Canal Terrace Aber- deen and Isabella Gordon 16 Cotton Street Aberdeen | Helen Davidson Smith at home (Spinster) | 19 | 54 Rosemount Place Aberdeen | William Smith General Labourer Anna Clarkson Smith Th. S. Buchanan | | Charles Sturrock Registrar |

Irregular Marriage

Deaths

- 1855 to 1860 included:
 - When doctor last saw the deceased alive
 - Place of burial
 - Name of undertaker
- 1861 spouse's name reinstated (after it began to be eliminated in 1856)

1855. DEATHS in the

District of Trinidad

Page
in the

| No. | Name, Rank, Profession, or Occupation. | Sex. | Age. | DESCRIPTION OF THE DECEASED. | | IF DECEASED WAS MARRIED, | |
|-----|--|-------------|--------------|--|--|--------------------------|---|
| | | | | Where born, and how long in this District. | Parents' Names, and Rank, Profession, or Occupation. | To whom. | Issue, in Order of Birth, their Names and Ages. |
| 112 | <u>James John</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>27</u> | <u>St. Helens</u> | <u>James Desjardins</u> | <u>James M. Kirkman</u> | <u>James & Mary</u> |
| | | | <u>Scott</u> | <u>Africa</u> | <u>Dozer</u> | | |
| | | | | <u>24 Years in</u> | <u>Margaret Desjardins</u> | | |
| | | | | <u>Glasgow</u> | <u>Mrs. James Simpson</u> | | |
| | | | | | <u>Deceased</u> | | |
| | <u>James John</u> | <u>Male</u> | | <u>Glasgow</u> | <u>Not known</u> | | |

80 Burgh of Glasgow

Registered by Hugh Morrison Registrar.

| PARTICULARS OF DEATH. | | | | Signature of Informant. | When and where registered, and Signature of Registrar. |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| When died, Year Day of Month, Hour. | Where died. | Cause of Death, and how long Disease continued. Medical Attendant by whom certified, and when he last saw deceased. | Burial Place. Undertaker by whom certified. | | |
| <u>1855</u> <u>Feb 6th</u> | <u>Canaberswald Road</u> <u>Glasgow</u> | <u>Scrub fever, Cold during</u> <u>the Effects of Anticipation</u> | <u>James Macpherson</u> <u>Glasgow</u> | <u>James Desjardins</u> <u>Dozer</u> | <u>1855 February 6th</u> <u>At Glasgow</u> |
| | <u>Resided at</u> <u>Spain Street</u> <u>Bridgeton</u> | <u>As Certified by</u> <u>William Young M.D.</u> <u>who examined Deceased</u> <u>February 5th</u> | <u>As Certified by</u> <u>Thomas Mitchell</u> <u>Undertaker</u> | | <u>Hugh Morrison</u> <u>Registrar</u> |
| <u>1855</u> <u>February</u> <u>6th</u> | <u>57 Dalmarloch</u> | <u>Not known</u> | <u>James Macpherson</u> <u>Glasgow</u> | <u>James B. Brown</u> <u>Inspector of Poor</u> | <u>1855 February 6th</u> <u>At Glasgow</u> |

Death Record – 1855

QUESTIONS?

Parish Records

Religious History

- Church of Scotland, the national church
- Claimed independent jurisdiction over its own business
 - Claim of Right, 1689
 - Act of Union, 1707
- Right of patronage restored, 1712



Disruption of 1843

Churches

- Church of Scotland – on ScotlandsPeople
- Roman Catholic Church – on ScotlandsPeople
- Other Nonconformist:
 - Society of Friends
 - Methodist
 - Episcopal
 - United Free Church
 - Congregational
 - Unitarian
 - Free Church

Church of Scotland

- In the 1600s it was Episcopal in beliefs
- Traditionally Presbyterian
- Old Parish Registers cover up to 1854
- 900 parishes
- Approximately 3,500 registers survive

Tip

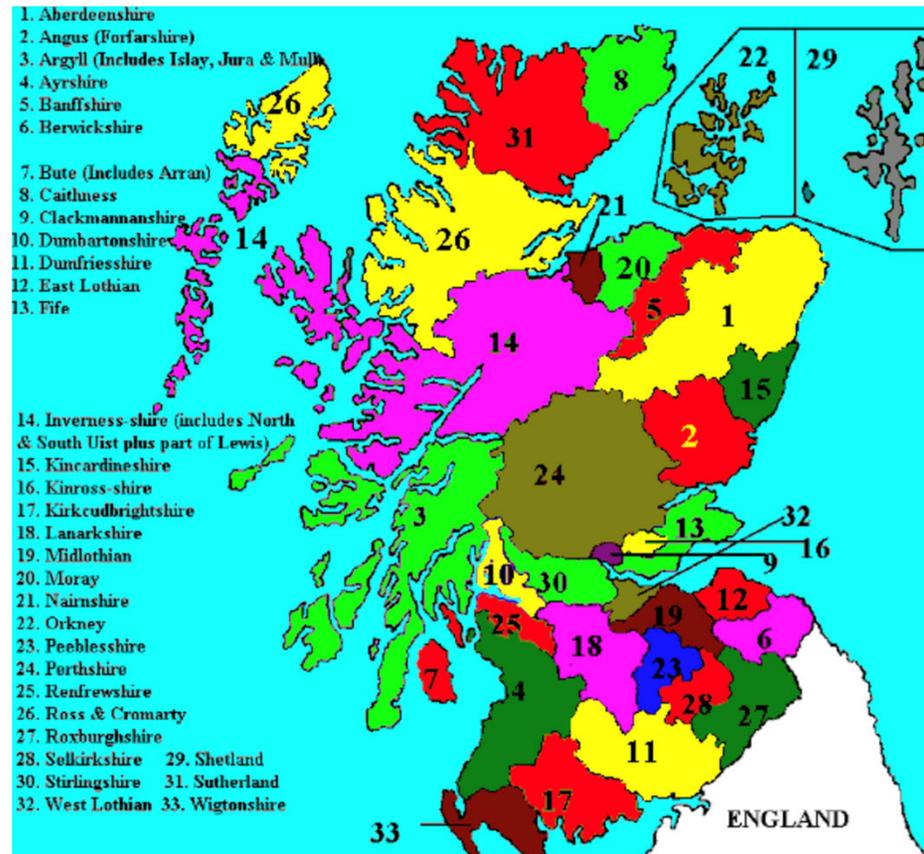
Recusant refers to
anyone who did not
belong to the
established Church

Identifying Your Parish

- There are 33 counties
- There are more than 900 parishes

County Map of Scotland

Please click in the appropriate map area to link to the relevant county page.



Select a county from either of the lists below, or see the 1890-1975 county map of Scotland. If you don't know which county a parish or town lies in, try an online [gazetteer](#) covering the whole of the UK. To find which GENUKI pages cover more modern administrative areas and the "Counties of Cities" see [Historical Geography](#) on the Scotland page.

33 Counties

*Genuki: UK & Ireland
Genealogy*

Tip

The records may
not be online.

Guides

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Record guides

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- 8 [Statutory register of marriages](#) >
- 9 [Other statutory registers](#) >
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Church registers

Charlotte Street Unit. Assoc. Cong. Aberdeen

| SEX. | | NAMES OF PARENTS. | | Employment or Profession. | Date and Place of Birth—Parish, Town, or Street. | | Date of Bapt and by whom Dis. |
|-------------------------|---------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------------|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Male. | Female. | Father. | Mother. | | | | |
| Male | " | James Cocker- | Elizabeth Saday | Gardener | 26 July 1845 | Pinny Park, Old Machar | 7 Dec 1845 W.S. |
| Male | " | Robert Downie | Christina Ross | Shoemaker | 17 July 1845 | 42 Craudway, Old Machar | 7 Dec 1845 W.S. |
| Male | " | Robert Brown | Elizabeth Mackie | Miller | 6 Nov 1845 | 10 John Street, Aberdeen | 7 Dec 1845 John |
| Male | " | Alexander Hodge | | Slater | 4 Oct 1845 | Green Hill, Mitchell Court | 7 Dec 1845 John |
| Search church registers | | | | | | | |

Churches have kept registers of baptisms (or births), marriages, burials (or deaths) and other events (such as people moving from one parish to another) for centuries. On this site you can search registers kept by the Church of Scotland, the Roman Catholic church and other churches.

- [Background to church registers](#)
- [How to search church registers](#)
- [Understanding the contents of church registers](#)
- [Church register images](#)
- [Which parishes and congregations have registers in the index](#)



Background to church registers

Most churches keep registers of baptisms, marriages and burials and some keep registers of other events relating to people. On the ScotlandsPeople site you can search the registers of the Church of Scotland, the Roman Catholic

www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/guides/church-registers

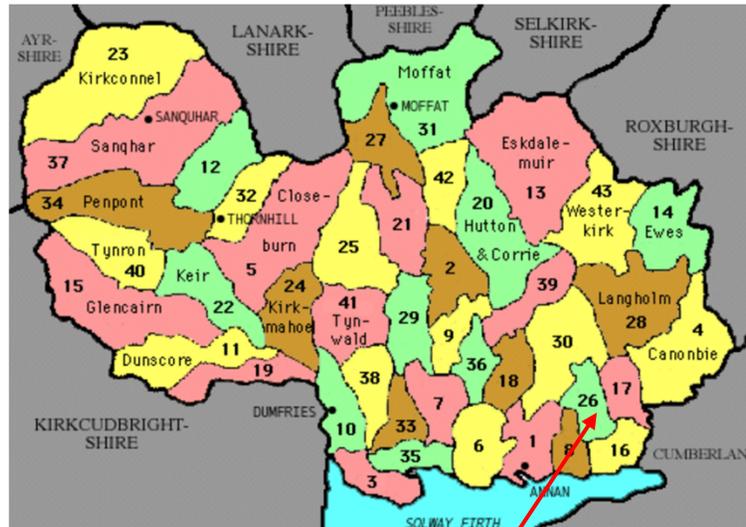
Baptisms

- A child may be baptized in two parishes:
 - Parish of the father
 - Parish of the mother
- Date of baptism is NOT date of birth
- Baptisms could be weeks or months after birth
- Old Parish Registers generally Presbyterian

| | |
|------------|--|
| 1804 | Janry 1 st . |
| Carruthers | William lawful son of William Carruthers & Janet Mawhinny in Flock. |
| | Janry 21 st |
| Irving | Ann lawful Daughter of Tho. Irving & Agnes Jackson in Cove Greenhead. |
| | Janry 29 th . |
| Douglas | Eli lawful son of Will ^m Douglas and Sibilla Stur Dalwanswells. |
| | Mar ^{ch} 15 th . |
| Little | Isabella lawful Daughter of Tho. Little & Jan Hearty in Flock and Hill. |
| | Mar ^{ch} 16 th . |
| Johnston | James lawful son of Jas. Johnston & Janet Irving in Williamsfield. |
| | April 2 ^d . |
| Mitchel | Jean lawful Daughter of Jas. Mitchel & |

Baptism - 1804

Where is Kirkpatrick-Fleming?



- Annan (1)
- Applegarth (2)
- Caerlaverock (3)
- Canonbie (4)
- Closeburn (5)
- Cummertrees (6)
- Dalton (7)
- Dornock (8)
- Dryfesdale (9)
- Dumfries (10)
- Dunscore (11)
- Durisdeer (12)
- Eskdalemuir (13)
- Ewes (14)

- Glencairn (15)
- Gretna (16)
- Halfmorton (17)
- Hoddam (18)
- Holywood (19)
- Hutton (20)
- Johnstone (21)
- Keir (22)
- Kirkconnel (23)
- Kirkmahoe (24)
- Kirkmichael (25)
- Kirkpatrick Fleming (26)
- Kirkpatrick Juxta (27)
- Langholm (28)
- Lochmaben (29)

- Middlebie (30)
- Moffat (31)
- Morton (32)
- Mouswald (33)
- Penpont (34)
- Ruthwell (35)
- St Mungo (36)
- Sanquhar (37)
- Torthorwald (38)
- Tundergarth (39)
- Tynron (40)
- Tinwald (41)
- Wamphray (42)
- Westerkirk (43)

Turn off 'Tips'

Save search >

Please select church

Church of Scotland (old parish registers)

Roman Catholic Church

Other churches

Surname:
 [Search Options](#)

Forename:
 [Search Options](#)

Gender:

Male Female Both

Year range:
 to

1st Parent Name:
 [Search Options](#)

| Surname | Forename | Parents/ Other Details | Gender | Date | Parish Number | Ref | Parish | Image View |
|----------|----------|---|--------|------------|---------------|--------|---------------------|--|
| JOHNSTON | ---- | ... JOHNSTON/ | U | 00/00/1787 | 837/ | 10 148 | Kirkpatrick Fleming | View image (6 credits) |
| JOHNSTON | ALLAN | ROBERT JOHNSTON/ | M | 21/03/1783 | 837/ | 10 125 | Kirkpatrick Fleming | View image (6 credits) |
| JOHNSTON | DAVID | JAMES JOHNSTON/JANNET IRVING FR190 (FR190) | M | 11/05/1801 | 837/ | 10 184 | Kirkpatrick Fleming | View image (6 credits) |
| JOHNSTON | DAVID | DAVID JOHNSTON/ | M | 23/08/1783 | 837/ | 10 129 | Kirkpatrick Fleming | View image (6 credits) |
| JOHNSTON | GEORGE | JAMES JOHNSTON/JANNET IRVING FR186 (FR186) | M | 25/09/1799 | 837/ | 10 180 | Kirkpatrick Fleming | View image (6 credits) |
| JOHNSTON | JAMES | JAMES JOHNSTON/JANNET IRVING FR201 (FR201) | M | 11/03/1804 | 837/ | 10 195 | Kirkpatrick Fleming | View image (paid) |
| JOHNSTON | JAMES | ROBERT JOHNSTON/MARJORY CRONE FR206 (FR206) | M | 02/04/1805 | 837/ | 10 200 | Kirkpatrick Fleming | View image (6 credits) |
| JOHNSTON | JAMES | JOHN JOHNSTON/SARAH BELL FR193 (FR193) | M | 18/03/1802 | 837/ | 10 187 | Kirkpatrick Fleming | View image (6 credits) |
| JOHNSTON | JAMES | DAVID JOHNSTON/JEAN HUNTER FR280 (FR280) | M | 28/09/1820 | 837/ | 20 7 | Kirkpatrick Fleming | View image (6 credits) |

https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/

Marriages

- A record of the proclamation of banns
- May be recorded in two parishes
(one each for groom and bride)
- One of the entries may offer more information
- Some ministers may have added additional information

1803 132.
Armstrong James private in the Dumfriesshire
Militia, & Margaret Elliot, were married at
Musselburgh before witnesses on the 24 Octo
by the Revd R. Grierson —

McGill Andrew, & Reid Cunningham were irregularly
married on the 29 Octo 1803. The parties compared
the Session on the 30th were bled and had their
marriage confirmed by the Revd R. Grierson

Mill Simon private in the Forfarshire Militia
& Helen Carnegie were married at Mussel
burgh on the 6th Deco. before witnesses by
the Revd R. Grierson —

Marriage – 1803

Burial Records

- Often the most *uninformative*
- With a child's death, you may get age at time of death
- Generally, include only name of deceased and date of interment

294 (32) Buried at Dumfries ²⁹⁸ June 1753
October 3. Jean Meen Daw to David Meis. Selater
6. John Neual Son to John Neual weaver
12. James Robison Son to James Robison Sidewater
15. George Wilson Son to John Wilson Officer of Excise
17. Francis Highland Son to John Highland Hammerman
18. Alexander Erskine Son to Robell Erskine Merchant
31. George McMillan late Parson of the Hammer man
31. James McMillan Son to John McMillan merchant
November Jean Pagan Dr to the deceased John Pagan Jeweller
4. Thomas Ewart Son to John Ewart Merchant
8. John Farris Merchant
8. Elizabeth Milken Dr to John Milken

<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>

Other Records

- Kirk Session Records offer information on the business of the church
- May address communicants who were having problems
- Should be consulted if the family was of the established church
- Will be examined in a later class

Roman Catholic

- Photocopied pre-1855 records were under the National Records of Scotland
- Originals may be with
 - Parish Priest
 - Diocese
 - Archdiocese

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Feb 8 th | Daniel Lynch and Mary Culhnan were after due proclamation married by me on 8 th Feb 1864 in presence of John Shannon and Ann Kenny. Peter Cumming |
| February 19 th 1864 | John McNulty + Bridget Scullin were after due proclamation married by me on the 19 th February 1864 Witnesses Mary Grant + Margaret Lamont Seamus Poir |
| March 28 th | James Allen & Mary Evans were after due proclamation married by me on 28 th March 1863 in presence of John Moran & Mary Lamont Peter Cumming |
| April 5 th | John Bannan and Ann Reynolds were after due proclamation married by me on 5 th April 1864 in presence of Michael Smith & Betty Bannan Peter Cumming |

Roman Catholic Birth – 1864

Episcopalian Records

- Episcopal Church of Scotland was the established church from 1603-38 and in the 1660s
- Original records are with the local priest or dioceses
- A survey exists of known Episcopal Churches
- Results available on the National Register of Archives for Scotland

The National Register of Archives for Scotland

NRAS search - internet

[Welcome]

[Browse]

[Search]

[Help]

[Simple search](#) | [Advanced search](#) | [Build your own search](#) | [Persons](#)

You are in: [Catalogue search](#) > [Simple search](#)

Monday 4 April

Page options:

 [Print this page](#)

 [Previous page](#)

Records updated:

25 February 2022

Search catalogue records

This screen allows you to search using keyword, reference and date fields. Persons (Name Authority) records can be searched using search terms and dates.

If you wish to carry out a more complex search, please use the Advanced search or Build your own search options

Search

Catalogue

Persons

Search for:

Phrase All words (AND) Any word (OR)

Reference:

Matches Starts Contains

Dates from:

Dates to:

Include undated records

<https://catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk/>

The National Register of Archives for Scotland

NRAS search - internet

[Welcome] [Browse] [Search] [Results summary] [Help]
[Simple search](#) | [Advanced search](#) | [Build your own search](#) | [Persons](#)

You are in: [Catalogue search](#) > [Results summary](#)

Monday 4 April 2022 07:05

Page options:
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Records updated:
25 February 2022

Search results

Simple search for records where any field contains all the words **episcopal edinburgh**, including undated records

| |
|---|
| Catalogue Your search has returned 75 matching records. Display Catalogue Results |
| Persons Your search returned no results. Please click on 'Refine Search' to modify your search, or click here for hints and tips on searching . |
| Refine Search |



<https://catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk/>

[Welcome]

[Browse]

[Search]

[Results summary]

[Results]

[Help]

You are in: Catalogue search > Search results > Overview

Monday 4 April 2022 07:05

Page options:

[Print this page](#)

[Previous page](#)

Records updated:

25 February 2022

Search results overview sorted by reference.

Simple search for catalogue records where any field contains all the words **episcopal edinburgh**, including undated records

[All](#) [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

[< previous](#)

Records 21 to 30 of 75

[next >](#)

[Explain Access status](#)

| Reference | Title | Date | Access status |
|----------------------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------|
| NRAS2698/1/5/22 | Envelope of letters chiefly relating to manuscripts and artefacts sent to Bp. Douglas of Aberdeen for the ecclesiastical museum at Bishopscourt | 1884-1963 | ● |
| NRAS2698/4/5/1 | Folder (1) of miscellaneous papers relating to St. John's, 1778-1896, and letters, bonds and accounts mainly relating to debt owed by Rev. Roger Aitken to the Scotch Episcopal Friendly Society, 1796-1815 | 1778-1896 | ● |
| NRAS2698/28 | Ellon: St. Mary-on-the Rock | 1749-24 Nov 1984 | ● |
| NRAS2698/28/5/3 | Envelope of miscellaneous papers, 1851-1860 | 1851-1864 | ● |
| NRAS2698/28/5/20 | Envelope of miscellaneous papers | 1920-1940 | ● |
| NRAS2701/4/5/2 | Envelope of Memorials and miscellaneous constitutions, etc. | 1838-1859 | ● |
| NRAS2701/29/5/1 | Envelope containing 2 bundles of letters and papers relating to the congregation | 1721-c 1913 | ● |
| NRAS2702 | Scottish Episcopal Church: Diocese of Edinburgh | 18th century-20th century | ● |
| NRAS2702/1/5/5 | Miscellaneous papers | c 1900-1971 | ● |
| NRAS2702/14 | Edinburgh: Episcopal Theological College Private Chapel | 1948-1982 | ● |

[< previous](#)

[next >](#)

Click on a reference number to see details

<https://catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk/>

| Reference | Title | Date |
|-----------|---|---------------------------|
| NRAS2698 | The Scottish Episcopal Church Congregations in the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney | 17th century-20th century |

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Country Code | GB |
| Repository Code | 800001 |
| Repository | Private |
| Reference | NRAS2698/28 |
| Title | Ellon: St. Mary-on-the Rock |
| Dates | 1749-24 Nov 1984 |
| Access Status | Restricted |
| Access Conditions | These records are held privately. All enquiries should be addressed to: The Registrar National Register of Archives for Scotland HM General Register House Edinburgh EH1 3YY |
| Description | (The following records of the Episcopal congregations at Old Meldrum and Tillydesk are held with the above papers: II.1 Baptisms 1804-1807 Burials 1804-1807 (Single volume, kept by Rev. N. Grieve) II.2 Communicants roll book for Old Meldrum, 1806-7, and Tillydesk, 1808-1812. II.3 Communicants roll book for Old Meldrum, 1805-6, and Tillydesk, 1805-7. A register of baptisms, with some cash accounts, of the Episcopal chapels at Bairnie and Tillydesk (which were the antecedents of the chapel re-established in Ellon in 1817), was published as 'Register of Baptisms, Chapels at Bairnie and Tillydesk, 1763-1801', ed. John MacGregor (Scottish Record Society, Edinburgh , 1908).) |
| Level | Sub-fonds |

<https://catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk/>

Other Non-Conformist Religions

- Records of Baptist, Congregational, Methodist, Quaker, and Unitarian can be found at the National Records of Scotland
- Also, in archives in the areas where they exist
- Restricted access
- Requires a form for researchers to look at the records

QUESTIONS?

Scotland's People

ScotlandsPeople

- Contains digital images of important Scottish records from:
 - National Records of Scotland
 - Lyon Court
 - Scottish Catholic Archives
- Has a research center in Edinburgh
- Online site (\$)



Find your Scottish ancestors

People



Surname

Forename

From 1513

To 2022

Search >

Advanced people search >

Coronavirus Update - Restart of Search Room Services

NRS is pleased to be welcoming customers back to our search rooms. Whilst recognising most Covid restrictions have now converted to guidance, we still

<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>

ScotlandsPeople

- Old Parish Registers (1553-1855)
- Civil (Statutory) Registers
 - Births, Deaths, Marriages (1855-current)
 - Divorces (1984-current)
 - Register of Corrections (1855-current)
 - Civil Partnerships (2005-current)
 - Dissolutions of Civil Partnerships (2007-current)
- Registers of births, deaths, marriages outside Scotland (years vary)
- Roman Catholic records (1703-20th century)

Accessing Registers

- Online:
 - Births more than 100 years old
 - Marriages more than 75 years old
 - Deaths more than 50 years old
- In the Center:
 - Can download/print records as described above
 - Modern records are view-only
- A cost (in purchased credits) is used

Advanced Search

- Record guides >
- Buy credits >

Start your search for records relating to people by selecting a category and record type from the options below or search across all record categories with our [quick people search](#).

Please select a category:

Turn off 'Tips'

✓ Statutory registers

Search the statutory (civil) registers of births, marriages and deaths in Scotland from 1855 to the present.

Church registers

Search church registers of births (or baptisms), marriages and burials in Scotland from 1553 onwards.

Census returns

Search the lists of people recorded in censuses taken every 10 years in Scotland from 1841 onwards.

Valuation rolls

Search lists of owners and occupiers of buildings and other properties in Scotland from 1855 onwards.

Legal records

Search wills and testaments, coats of arms, soldiers' and airmen's wills and the records of military service appeals tribunals.

Poor relief and migration records

Search the records for the emigration society, set up to relieve Highland destitution 1852-57

Prison registers

Search registers of people admitted to Scottish prisons to 1921. Currently, registers for Perth Prison are available.

Kirk sessions

Kirk session and other church court records can be found in Virtual Volumes.

Statutory registers

<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>

Please select church

- Church of Scotland (old parish registers)
- Roman Catholic Church
- Other churches

Surname:

johnston

Forename:

james

Gender:

- Male
- Female
- Both

Year range:

1553 to 1855

County/City:

DUMFRIES

Parish/congregation:

All
ABBEY
ABBEY ST BATHANS
ABBOTRULE

Search Options ✕

- Exact names only
- Wild cards allowed
- Names that begin with
- Phonetic matching

Search >

[Clear form and start again](#)

Baptism Search

Church registers - Old Parish Registers Births and baptisms - Search results

Advanced people search >

You searched for: Event: '(B OR C OR S)', Church_type: 'Old Parish Registers', Surname: 'Johnston', Surname Option: 'Starts', Forename: 'James', Forename Option: 'Starts', County: 'DUMFRIES', RD: 'KIRKPATRICK FLEMING (DUMFRIES)'

21 Results

Showing 1-21 of 21 (1 page)

Turn off 'Tips'

Save search >

Please select church

- Church of Scotland (old parish registers)
- Roman Catholic Church
- Other churches

Surname:

[Search Options](#)

Forename:

[Search Options](#)

| Surname | Forename | Parents/ Other Details | Gender | Date | Parish Number | Ref | Parish | Image View |
|----------|----------|---|--------|------------|---------------|--------|---------------------|--|
| JOHNSTON | JAMES | JAMES JOHNSTON/JANNET IRVING FR201 (FR201) | M | 11/03/1804 | 837/ | 10 195 | Kirkpatrick Fleming | View image (paid) |
| JOHNSTON | JAMES | ROBERT JOHNSTON/MARJORY CRONE FR206 (FR206) | M | 02/04/1805 | 837/ | 10 200 | Kirkpatrick Fleming | View image (6 credits) |
| JOHNSTON | JAMES | JOHN JOHNSTON/SARAH BELL FR193 (FR193) | M | 18/03/1802 | 837/ | 10 187 | Kirkpatrick Fleming | View image (6 credits) |
| JOHNSTON | JAMES | ANDREW JOHNSTON/ | M | 29/04/1753 | 837/ | 10 15 | Kirkpatrick Fleming | View image (6 credits) |
| JOHNSTON | JAMES | WALTER JOHNSTON/ | M | 14/02/1753 | 837/ | 10 13 | Kirkpatrick Fleming | View image (6 credits) |
| JOHNSTON | JAMES | DAVID JOHNSTON/JEAN HUNTER FR280 (FR280) | M | 28/09/1820 | 837/ | 20 7 | Kirkpatrick Fleming | View image (6 credits) |

Baptism Search Results

Please select church

Church of Scotland (old parish registers)

Roman Catholic Church

Other churches

Surname:

[Search Options](#)

Forename:

[Search Options](#)

Gender:

Male Female Both

Year range:

to

1st Parent Name:

[Search Options](#)

2nd Parent Name:

[Search Options](#)

County/City:

| Surname | Forename | Parents/ Other Details | Gender | Date | Parish Number | Ref | Parish | Image View |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--|
| JOHNSTON | JAMES | JAMES JOHNSTON/JANNET IRVING FR201 (FR201) | M | 11/03/1804 | 837/ | 10 195 | Kirkpatrick Fleming | View image (paid) |
| JOHNSTON | MARY | JAMES JOHNSTON/JANNET IRVING FR177 (FR177) | F | 03/04/1796 | 837/ | 10 171 | Kirkpatrick Fleming | View image (6 credits) |
| JOHNSTONE | WILLIAM | JAMES JOHNSTONE/JANNET JOHNSTONE FR218 (FR218) | M | 09/07/1809 | 837/ | 10 212 | Kirkpatrick Fleming | View image (6 credits) |
| JOHNSTONE | WILLIAM | JAMES JOHNSTONE/JANNET IRVING FR170 (FR170) | M | 11/03/1792 | 837/ | 10 164 | Kirkpatrick Fleming | View image (6 credits) |
| JOHNSTONE | HELEN | JAMES JOHNSTONE/JANNET JOHNSTONE FR225 (FR225) | F | 04/11/1811 | 837/ | 10 219 | Kirkpatrick Fleming | View image (6 credits) |
| JOHNSTONE | JANNET | JAMES JOHNSTONE/JANNET IRVING FR179 (FR179) | F | 04/06/1797 | 837/ | 10 173 | Kirkpatrick Fleming | View image (6 credits) |
| JOHNSTONE | JEAN | JAMES JOHNSTONE/JANNET IRVING FR172 (FR172) | F | 12/12/1793 | 837/ | 10 166 | Kirkpatrick Fleming | View image (6 credits) |
| JOHNSTONE | MARY | JAMES JOHNSTONE/JANNET JOHNSTONE FR233 (FR233) | F | 06/11/1814 | 837/ | 10 227 | Kirkpatrick Fleming | View image (6 credits) |

Sibling Search - Baptisms

Tip

Check record
availability

Church register images

Old Parish Register images are black and white images derived from microfilm and stored in a JPEG format. Roman Catholic register images and other church registers images are stored in a colour jpeg format and are mostly derived from the original records.

Which parishes and congregations have registers in the index

Church of Scotland parishes

You can see a [list of old parish registers](#) on the National Records of Scotland site. Bear in mind that the Church of Scotland parishes did not cover the same areas as Roman Catholic parishes and the parishes of other churches.

Roman Catholic parishes and congregations

Registers for the following Roman Catholic parishes and congregations are indexed on the ScotlandsPeople site:

- MP/1 Airdrie, St Margaret's 1842-1977
- MP/2 Carluke, St Athanasius' 1849-1936
- MP/3 Coatbridge, St Patrick's 1847-1952
- MP/4 Hamilton, St Mary's 1841-1906
- MP/5 Rutherglen, St Columbkille's 1848-1945
- MP/6 Greenock, St Mary's 1808-1946
- MP/7 Houston, St Fillan's 1868-1944
- MP/8 Paisley, St Mirin's 1808-1934
- MP/9 Port Glasgow, St John's 1846-1939
- MP/10 Aberdeen, St Mary's with St Peter's 1782-1957
- MP/11 Ballater, St Nathalan 1769-2002
- MP/12 Ballogie, St Michael's 1833-1876
- MP/13 Beaulie, St Mary's 1851-1885
- MP/14 Blairs, St Mary's with Scalan 1789-1953
- MP/15 Braemar, St Andrew's 1608-1992
- MP/16 Buckie, St Peter's 1786-1994

www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/guides/church-registers#Parishes

Civil and Parish Records

- Parish records may go back to the 17th century
- Civil records began in 1855
- Idiosyncrasies in clerks' record keeping may offer additional information
- Civil records are on ScotlandsPeople
- Church of Scotland and Catholic records are on ScotlandsPeople

QUESTIONS?

Hire Research Services

research@nehgs.org

Chat with a Genealogist

AmericanAncestors.org/chat

Search

Events

Membership

Give

Publications

Expert Help

Tools

Signature Projects

Centers & Initiatives

Home | Researching Scottish Ancestors 2022

Researching Scottish Ancestors 2022

Thank you for registering for the online course, *Researching Scottish Ancestors*!

Scots have been migrating to and settling in America and Canada for centuries. Today, there are an estimated 25 million Americans of Scottish descent. Tracing your Scottish heritage is rewarding, but not without its challenges. This five-session online seminar will provide you with key historical context, strategies, and resources setting you on the right path to trace your ancestry back several generations in Scotland.

This course includes five 90-minute classes; exclusive access to handouts and recordings of each presentation; and in-depth q&a sessions with the instructors.

JOIN LIVE SESSIONS

Click here to join the live sessions: <https://zoom.us/j/91855370989>

If you are unable to attend a live session, you will be able to watch a recording posted below.

COURSE SCHEDULE

AmericanAncestors.org/researching-scottish-ancestors-2022



THANK YOU!

AmericanAncestors.org



NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

AmericanAncestors.org

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